

REMARKS

Claims 8 through 15 have been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended. New claims 16 and 17 have been added. Claims 1 through 7, 16, and 17 remain in the application.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because the drawings do not include reference sign “700”. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

The specification has been amended on page 9 to change “700” to “800”. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings are allowable over the objection.

The disclosure was objected to because of an informality in that the reference numerals starting from page 10, line 17 to page 11, line 2 need to be changed to 800’s to match FIG. 17. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

The specification has been amended on page 10, line 17 to page 11, line 2 such that the reference numerals described therein correspond to that shown in FIG. 17. It is respectfully submitted that the specification is allowable over the objection.

Claim 2 was objected to because of an informality in the claim.

Claim 2 has been amended to delete the first occurrence of the word “pin”. It is respectfully submitted that claim 2 overcomes the objection.

Claims 3 through 7 have been allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,719,318. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection, Applicant is filing a Terminal Disclaimer separately to overcome the rejection. It is respectfully submitted that the Terminal Disclaimer overcomes the rejection.

New claims 16 and 17 have been added to more broadly claim the present invention. New claim 16 is similar to claim 1 and does not claim the feature of the hitch tube. New claim 17 is similar to claim 1 and does not claim the features of the hitch tube and cover member. It is respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 17 are allowable over the art of record.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance, which allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Daniel H. Bliss
Reg. No. 32,398

BLISS McGLYNN, P.C.
2075 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 600
Troy, Michigan 48084
(248) 649-6090

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